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REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 1-8, and 12-15 are pending in this application. Claims 9-11 have been canceled. Claims 1, 2 and 4 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to set forth that identification information to identify a displayed video image and selected area information which indicates areas selected on the displayed video image are sent from first and second terminal devices to a server device connected to the computer network. Further, claim 1 is amended to include allowing of communication messages between the first terminal and the second terminal by the server device, based on the received identification information and an overlap between the areas which are indicated in the selected area information.

Claim 2 has been amended to set forth that the server device makes up a group of the first and second terminal devices, according to a grouping process using by judging an overlap between areas defined in the first and second selected area information sent from the first and second terminal devices;

Independent claim 4 is amended to set forth that identification information to identify a displayed video image on first and second terminal devices, first and second selected area information which indicates areas selected on the displayed video image on the first and second terminal devices, respectively, and messages from the first and second terminal devices are sent to a server device for information exchange across a computer network. Further, claim 4 includes making up a group of two or more terminal devices including at

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least the first terminal device and the second terminal device based on an overlap between

areas which are indicated by the first and second selected area information.

The amendment of claims 1, 2 and 4 finds support in the Specification on page 27,

line 4 – page 29, line 4, for example, and the description of Figure 4. See area 406 selected

on the frame of terminal A which overlaps area 407 selected on the frame of terminal B. In

the example shown in Fig. 4, terminals A and B are grouped.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 4-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being

indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which

applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants have amended claim 4 to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second

paragraph rejection.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 9 and 12-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

unpatentable over Ilan et al., U.S. Publication No. 2002/0059184 in view of Abrahams, U.S.

Publication No. 2002/0120934, and Roy et al, U.S. Patent No. 7,106,479.

Claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ilan

'184, Abrahams '934 and Roy '479, in view of Inala et al., U.S. Publication No. 2003/001489.

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Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ilan

'184, Abrahams '934, and Roy '479 in view of Wang et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,058,428.

Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ilan

'184, Abrahams '934, and Roy '479, in view of Yoneda, U.S. Patent No. 6,002,832.

Claims 4-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over

Boies, U.S. 7,010,570, in view of Abrahams '934 and Roy '479.

Claims 5-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over

Boies '570, Abrahams '934, and Roy '479, in view of Emens et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,745,178.

Applicants request reconsideration of the rejections for the following reasons.

Ilan discloses a system and method that enables real-time communications between

users across a computer network using URL information (see paragraphs 0023, 0027). For

example, entering the key word "automobile" can be used to initiate communication, such as

online instant messaging, between users who are both interested in this subject area.

However, as described in paragraph 0007 in Ilan, this system requires a data string. As

described paragraphs 0007 and 0008 in Ilan, the data string is a string of characters. That is,

in Ilan's system, users need to enter a keyword as a data string (e.g., "automobile") to

communicate between two or more users. Further, although Ilan discloses the phrase

"interested in this subject area" (see paragraph 0008), the "subject area" means field or

category regarding content of interest, and does not mean or indicate an object indicated by a

user from a displayed video image. Accordingly, the communication system of Ilan provides

communication between two or more users in which the users are grouped by comparing

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strings of characters provided from a client to a central server.

Abrahams is relied upon for disclosing a system for searching and matching objects of a video image, wherein the information for matching includes identification information selected by a user by using a pointer such as a program name, program counter and coordinates corresponding to the location of the selection within the display. See paragraphs [0046] - [0048] and [0062]. Further, Roy is relied upon for disclosing users viewing the same image and displaying messages together with the image.

However, the combination of Illan, Abrahams and Roy does not include allowing communication messages between the first terminal and the second terminal by the server device, based on the received identification information and an overlap between the areas which are indicated in the selected area information, as set forth in claim 1. Further, the combination of references does not disclose making up a group of two or more terminal devices including at least the first terminal device and the second terminal device based on an overlap between areas which are indicated by the first and second selected area information, as set forth in claim 2. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 2, 9 and 12-15 should be withdrawn.

None of Inala, Wang or Yoneda overcome the deficiencies in the combination of Illan, Abrahams and Roy. Therefore, claims 3, 10 and 11 should also be found to be allowable.

Independent claim 4 is patentable over the art of record for the same reasons as claims 1, 2, 9 and 12-15. Boies, which is relied upon for disclosing the sending of messages from

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terminal devices to a server for information exchange across a computer network, does not

make up for the deficiencies in Abrahams and Roy. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 4

and 8 should be withdrawn

Claims 5-7, which are each dependent claims, should be found to be patentable over

the art of record, at least since each depends from an allowable base claim (claim 4).

None of the cited references disclose the allowing of communication messages

between first and terminals based on received identification information and an overlap

between areas which are indicated in selected area information, as required by claim 1.

Further, the references do not disclose making up a group of two or more terminal devices

including at least the first terminal device and a second terminal device, based on an overlap

between areas which is indicated by the first and second selected area information, as set

forth in claim 4.

Applicants have considered each of the references cited in the art of record and none

of these references discloses the invention as set forth in independent claims 1 and 4.

Accordingly, pending claims 1-8 and 12-15 should be found to be patentable over the art of

record, and therefore the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of these claims should be

withdrawn.

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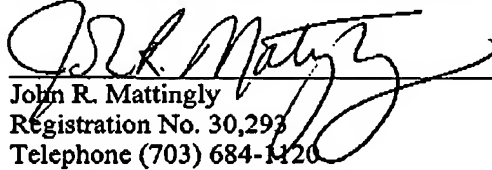Response to Office Action mailed January 9, 2007

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and reexamination

are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C.

John R. Mattingly
Registration No. 30,293
Telephone (703) 684-1120

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